

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/757,544

Examiner

Suzanne Dino Barrett

Applicant(s)

YANG, YAO-KUN

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing of application on 1/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

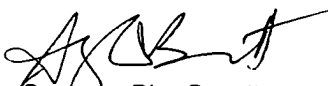
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach a combination padlock having a receiving chamber within a pivotable portion of the padlock housing, wherein the padlock shackle and the pivotable housing are blocked from unlatching by a pivotable fastener sheet or plate. The cited patents to Vahlstrom '893, Foote '406, '724, Pond '852, Garro '099 and Treslo '698 all teach combination padlocks having spring biased shackle fasteners (for example 4,5,6 of Vahlstrom) which are blocked from unlatching by a pivotable fastener plate (25 of Vahlstrom) which is controlled by a combination dial mechanism (12/22 of Vahlstrom). These patents all fail to teach a receiving chamber within the padlock housing and a pivotable cover portion also latched by the fastener plate. The cited patents to Ling '947 and Atkinson '189 teach combination padlocks having a shackle and a receiving chamber within the housing, with a fastener sheet or plate (6/63/64 of Ling - Figs.3&5 especially; 47/46a,46b of Atkinson) to block the unlatching of the housing cover (9/93 of Ling; 61d/53 of Atkinson), but fail to also provide blocking of the shackle latch. While the various latching and blocking features for the shackle and housing are singly taught by the prior art as discussed above, there is no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to provide the devices of Ling or Atkinson with an additional shackle lock portion on the disclosed fastener plate/sheet as taught by Vahlstrom. Nor is there motivation to provide the padlocks such as taught by Vahlstrom above, with a receiving chamber having a

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pivotable cover portion and further providing an additional blocking portion on the fastener plate (25 of Vahlstrom) to engage the pivotable housing cover and prevent opening thereof. Accordingly, absent improper hindsight, there would have been no motivation to combine the teachings discussed above. Therefore, claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne Dino Barrett whose telephone number is 703-308-0825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Will can be reached on 703-308-3870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner
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sdb